

5 What is claimed is:

1. A mixture of derivatized malto-oligosaccharide species prepared by a method comprising the steps of:

10 providing a mixture of a plurality of malto-oligosaccharide species;

catalytically hydrogenating said mixture under hydrogenation conditions suitable to substantially preserve the DP profile of said mixture to thereby
15 obtain a hydrogenated malto-oligosaccharide mixture, wherein said mixture is hydrogenated to DE of essentially zero; and

derivatizing said hydrogenated malto-oligosaccharide mixture to thereby form said derivatized malto-
20 oligosaccharide mixture.

2. The mixture of claim 1, said derivatizing comprising oxidizing said mixture.

25 3. The mixture of claim 1, said derivatizing comprising estherifying said mixture.

4. The mixture of claim 1, said derivatizing comprising etherifying said mixture.

30 5. The mixture of claim 1, said derivatizing comprising enzymatically modifying said mixture.

6. A mixture of derivatized malto-oligosaccharide
35 prepared by a method comprising the steps of:

providing a hydrogenated malto-oligosaccharide mixture, said mixture having been prepared by

5 catalytically hydrogenatizing a mixture of malto-
oligosaccharide species to a DE of essentially zero
under hydrogenation conditions suitable to substantially
preserve the DP profile of said mixture; and

10 derivatizing said hydrogenated malto-oligosaccharide
mixture to thereby form said derivatized malto-
oligosaccharide mixture.

7. The mixture of claim 6, said derivatizing
comprising oxidizing said mixture.

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8. The mixture of claim 6, said derivatizing
comprising estherifying said mixture.

9. The mixture of claim 6, said derivatizing
20 comprising etherifying said mixture.

10. The mixture of claim 6, said derivatizing
comprising enzymatically modifying said mixture.

25 11. A method for preparing a mixture of derivatized
malto-oligosaccharides, comprising the steps of:
providing a hydrogenated malto-oligosaccharide
mixture, said mixture having been prepared by
catalytically hydrogenatizing a mixture of malto-
30 oligosaccharide species to a DE of essentially zero
under hydrogenation conditions suitable to substantially
preserve the DP profile of said mixture; and

35 derivatizing said hydrogenated malto-oligosaccharide
mixture to thereby form said derivatized malto-
oligosaccharide mixture.

5 12. The method of claim 11, said derivatizing
comprising oxidizing said mixture.

13. The method of claim 11, said derivatizing
comprising esterifying said mixture.

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14. The method of claim 11, said derivatizing
comprising etherifying said mixture.

15 15. The method of claim 11, said derivatizing
comprising enzymatically modifying said mixture.